

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Claims 1-12 cancelled

13). (New) Cover (2, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204) for an electric accumulator (1, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104) of the type with free electrolyte adapted to be integral with the container (3) of said accumulator (1, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104) said cover comprising at least one valve device (9) having an inlet (10) communicating with one or more cells (5) of said accumulator and an outlet communicating (11) with the external environment (A), said valve device being adapted to prevent the leaking of electrolyte (E) present in said one or more cells (5) and to allow the disposal to the outside of the gases that develop inside said accumulator (1, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104) when the pressure in said one or more cells (5) exceeds a predetermined value;  
said valve device (9) communicates with said one or more cells (5) through at least one discharge channel (12) having at least one inlet mouth (13) communicating with said one or more cells (5) and at least one outlet mouth (14) communicating with said inlet (10);  
**characterised in that** said at least one inlet mouth (13) communicates with said one or more cells (5) through at least one accumulation chamber (18) each communicating with one of said one or more cells (5) through at least one vent channel (19).

14). (New) Cover (203) according to claim 13) **characterised in that** the lower surface of said accumulation chamber (18) has one or more tilted planes (20) converging towards said at least one vent channel (19) to ease the re-entry of the electrolyte (E) into the corresponding cell (5).

15). (New) Cover (203) according to claim 13) **characterised in that** the upper surface of said accumulation chamber (18) has one or more upper tilted planes (21) that define second tanks (22) adapted to further hold said electrolyte (E).

16). (New) Cover (201, 202, 203) according to claim 13) **characterised in that** the lower surface of said at least one discharge channel (12) has one or more tilted planes (15) converging towards said at least one inlet mouth (13) to ease the re-entry of the electrolyte (E)

into said one or more cells (5) and to equally distribute the electrolyte (E) present in said at least one discharge channel (12) between said one or more cells (5).

17). (New) Cover (202, 203) according to claim 13) **characterised in that** the upper surface of said discharge channel (12) has one or more tilted planes (16) that define first tanks (17) communicating with each other.

18). (New) Cover (204) according to claim 13) **characterised in that** each of said one or more cells (5) is provided with at least one valve device (9).

19). (New) Cover (2, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204) according to claim 13) **characterised in that** said at least one valve device (9) is an over-pressure valve.

20). (New) Cover (2, 200, 201, 203, 204) according to claim 13) **characterised in that** said predetermined over-pressure value is not less than the pressure exerted by the head of said electrolyte (E) on said inlet (10) when said accumulator (1, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104) is arranged upside down.

21). (New) Electric accumulator (1, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104) of the type with free electrolyte comprising:

a container (3) provided on the inside with at least one cell (5) adapted to house the plate groups (8) of said accumulator (1, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104) and to contain the electrolyte (E);

at least one cover (2, 200, 201, 203, 204) adapted to close said container (3);

**characterised in that** said at least one cover (2, 200, 201, 203, 204) is realised according to claim 13).

22). (New) Electric accumulator (1, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104) of the type with free electrolyte comprising:

a container (3) provided on the inside with one or more cells (5) each adapted to house the plate groups (8) of said accumulator (1, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104) and to contain the electrolyte (E);

at least one cover (2, 200) adapted to close said container (3);

at least one valve device (9) having an inlet (10) communicating with at least one of said one or more cells (5) and an outlet communicating (11) with the external environment (A), to prevent the leaking of electrolyte (E) and to allow the disposal to the outside of the gases that develop inside said accumulator (1, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104) when the pressure in one of said one or more cells (5) exceeds a predetermined value;

wherein said valve device (9) communicates with said one or more cells (5) through at least one discharge channel (12) having at least one inlet mouth (13) communicating with at least one of said one or more cells (13) and at least one outlet mouth (14) communicating with said inlet (10);

**characterized in that** said at least one inlet mouth (13) communicates with said one or more cells (5) through at least one accumulation chamber (18) each communicating with one of said one or more cells (5) through at least one vent channel (19).

23). (New) Accumulator (103) according to claim 22) **characterised in that** the lower surface of said accumulation chamber (18) has one or more tilted planes (20) converging towards said at least one vent channel (19) to ease the re-entry of the electrolyte (E) into the corresponding cell (5).

24). (New) Accumulator (103) according to claim 22) **characterised in that** the upper surface of said accumulation chamber (18) has one or more upper tilted planes (21) that define second tanks (22) adapted to further hold said electrolyte (E).

25). (New) Accumulator (101, 102, 103) according to claim 22) **characterised in that** the lower surface of said at least one discharge channel (12) has one or more tilted planes (15) converging towards said at least one inlet mouth (13) to ease the re-entry of the electrolyte (E) into said one or more cells (5) and to equally distribute the electrolyte (E) present in said at least one discharge channel (12) between said one or more cells (5).

26). (New) Accumulator (102, 103) according to claim 22) **characterised in that** the upper surface of said discharge channel (12) has one or more tilted planes (16) that define first tanks (17) communicating with each other.

27). (New) Accumulator (1, 100, 101, 102, 103) according to claim 22) **characterised in that** at least one portion of said at least one discharge channel (12) is realised in the cover (2, 200) of said accumulator (1, 100, 101, 102, 103).

28). (New) Accumulator (103) according to claim 22) **characterised in that** at least one part of said accumulation chambers (18) is realised in the cover of said accumulator (103).

29). (New) Accumulator (1, 100, 101, 102, 103) according to claim 22) **characterised in that** at least one portion of said at least one discharge channel (12) is realised in the container (3) of said accumulator (1, 100, 101, 102, 103).

30). (New) Accumulator (103) according to claim 22) **characterised in that** at least one part of said accumulation chambers (18) is realised in the container (3) of said accumulator (103).

31). (New) Accumulator (104) according to claim 22) **characterised in that** each of said one or more cells (5) is provided with at least one valve device (9).

32). (New) Accumulator (1, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104) according to claim 22) **characterised in that** said at least one valve device (9) is an over-pressure valve.

33). (New) Accumulator (1, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104) according to claim 22) **characterised in that** said predetermined over-pressure value is not less than the pressure exerted by the head of said electrolyte (E) on said inlet (10) when said accumulator (1, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104) is arranged upside down.